SGT. H.L. BANK, 20H 6637
CO. M, 167TH INF, APO 31
C/O P.M., S.F., CAL.

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
8 AM
JAN 14
1944
7 BPO

U.S. POSTAGE
6¢
VIA AIR MAIL

AIRMAIL

1/20/45

MR. + MRS. SAM BANK
ARMY STORE,
TUSCALOOSA, ALA.
U.S.A.

PASSED BY
CENSOR
EXAMINER

N.E.I.
20 JAN 44

DEAREST MOTHER & DADDY:

WELL, I GUESS YOU ARE WONDERING WHY I HAVEN'T WRITTEN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS IN NO CONDITION NOR POSITION.

TWENTY-TWO DAYS AGO WE PULLED OUT, BY FOOT, TO FINISH CLEANING OUT THE JAPS HERE. YESTERDAY WE RETURNED, ALL TIRED OUT AND IN RAGS, AND DIRTY & TIRED. I WANT YOU TO KNOW I AM WORN OUT. WE CLIMBED MOUNTAINS THAT MAN HAD NEVER SET EYES ON BEFORE. SOME OF THEM I STILL DON'T SEE HOW WE CLIMBED. THEY WERE STRAIGHT UP. ONE SLIP WOULD HAVE MEANT THE END IN SOME PLACES. WE WADED SWIFT RIVERS, WALKED IN MUD, AND SLIPPED AND SLID IN RIVER BOTTOMS, DOWN IN THE MUD, AND I HAD MY SHARE OF FALLS. WAS VERY LUCKY I DIDN'T GET HURT. I STARTED OUT WITH 3 DAYS RATIONS

ON MY BACK, IN A PACK SO HEAVY
IT PROBABLY WOULD BREAK A MULE'S
BACK, I UNLOADED ALOT HALF WAY
UP OUR FIRST MOUNTAIN, BUT IT
WAS STILL BACK-BREAKING UNTIL
I CAME WITHIN SIGHT OF MY
TENT AND BED. THEN IT BECAME
VERY LIGHT ALL OF A SUDDEN. SO
I HAD TO STRETCH MY FOOD FROM
3 TO 5 DAYS, THEN DIDN'T GET ANY-
MORE UNTIL THE 7TH DAY. ON THE
6TH DAY WE WALKED ALL DAY
OVER MOUNTAINS WITHOUT A BITE
TO EAT, MOST OF THE TIME IN THE
MOUNTAINS WE HAD NO WATER. BUT
IN THE VALLEYS THERE WAS PLENTY
THEY DROPPED US FOOD 3 TIMES
BY PLANE. THEY WOULD HAVE DROPPED
IT MORE, BUT WE COULDN'T FIND A
PLACE CLEAR FOR THEM TO DROP
IT. WE CLEANED OUT THE VAPS;
THAT'S THE MAIN THING.
SO THAT'S THAT! YOUR LITTLE

THE OTHER HAD A FRUIT CAKE IN IT.

I GOT ARNOLD ROYAL'S ADDRESS FROM YOU YESTERDAY, AND WENT UP TO SEE HIM TO-DAY. HE ALSO GOT MY ADDRESS YESTERDAY AND TRIED TO CALL ME. WE SHOT BULL ALL MORNING. HE'S COMING OVER IN A FEW MINUTES TO HELP ME EAT THIS GEFILTE FISH, SALAMI, AND HERRING AND OTHER JUNK.

THAT'S ABOUT ALL FOR NOW, SO BE GOOD AND WRITE SOON. I GOT THE MUM AND FISHING STUFF. PLEASE SEND ME SOME SARDINES, TUNA FISH, GEFILTE FISH, HERRING ETC.

TUSCALOOSA JAN 29 1945 PARCEL POST

LOVE,

Harold

BOY SURE DID SUFFER BUT ALL'S
WELL THAT ENDS WELL. RIGHT?

3 I GOT 3 PACKAGES NEW YEARS
DAY AND ATE SOME SYRUP TO-DAY.
TO-DAY I GOT 4 PACKAGES, 2
FROM YOU, AND 1 FROM SOL LELAND
THAT'S THE 2ND I GOT FROM THEM.